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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

WARREN, MATTHEW E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,781

Applicant(s)

PATTI

Examiner

Matthew E. Warren

Art Unit

2815

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Telephone Election made on March 26, 2002.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-7 and 20-28, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 539.
- II. Claims 8-19, drawn to a method of making a semiconductor, classified in class 438, subclass 1+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the process of forming an oxide layer could also be used to form a gate dielectric as opposed to covering the walls of a trench.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group I, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Robert Iannucci on March 26, 2002 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-7 and 20-28. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying

to this Office action. Claims 8-19 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Italy on December 10, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the TO99A 001086 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 20-23, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakai et al. (JP 61-232657 A).

Sakai et al. discloses (abstract and fig. 1 on page 3) an integrated circuit device comprising a high voltage resistor (R) integrated in a semiconductor material body (3) in which the resistor has a vertical current flow. The resistor has the same conductivity type (N) as the semiconductor material body and is formed by a portion of the semiconductor material body extending between a first (top) surface and second (bottom) surface of the body. The resistor is delimited at least partially by an insulation

region (11) extending from the first surface towards the second surface of the body. The insulating region has a closed shape and is formed of isolating material. A first and second region (regions 5 on each side of insulator 11) having a conductivity type opposite (P) that of the material body is arranged on opposite sides of the insulation region. First and second electronic devices (Q1 and Q2 [not shown in fig. 1]) are formed on opposite sides of the insulation region. The insulating region is open at a bottom portion such that the semiconductor region (3) is contiguous with the semiconductor body (1). The semiconductor region has a rectangular cross section and the insulating region has a rectangular frame shape. The semiconductor region (3) includes an upper region (6) adjacent to the surface of the semiconductor body and a lower region (3) below the upper region, wherein the upper region is doped at a higher doping level (n+) than the lower region (n). The semiconductor region also includes an upper region (5) adjacent to the surface of the semiconductor body and a lower region (2) positioned below the upper region, wherein the upper region has a conductivity type (p) opposite to the conductivity type (n) of the lower region, inherently forming a diode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2815

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai et al. (JP 61-232657 A) as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Sivan (US 5,229,310).

Sakai et al. shows all of the elements of the claims except the insulating region having conductive filler surrounded by insulating walls. Sivan shows (fig. 1F) a semiconductor device having a trench lined with insulating material (32) and conductive filler (38) surrounded by the insulating walls. The region also includes an upper region (28) of a first conductivity type, a middle region of a second conductivity type, and lower region (26) also of the first conductivity type. The upper and lower regions operate as source/drain regions and the conductive material (38) functions as a gate electrode (col. 5, lines 12-21 and col. 6, lines 11-30). This configuration minimizes the transistor size and ultimately increases the cell density. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the insulation region of Sakai by filling the layer with conductive material as a gate as taught by Sivan to reduce the transistor size and increase the cell density.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pages et al. (US 6,373,100 B1), Scaccianoce (US 5,949,122), Chatterjee et al. (US 4,896,243), and Ito (JP 6-342878) also discloses semiconductor devices having vertical resistors.

Art Unit: 2815

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew E. Warren whose telephone number is (703) 305-0760. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, and alternating Fri, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on (703) 308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3432 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MEW
MEW
May 1, 2002



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